



Welcome to Uzbekistan!

Welcome! We are happy to have you here as an American cultural ambassador to Uzbekistan. Embassy Tashkent is here to make your transition to life in Uzbekistan as smooth as possible. There are a few things you should know before your arrival in country. Please read the information below carefully, and let us know if you have any questions. Good luck in your preparations, and we will see you in Tashkent!

Visa and Registration

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy, in cooperation with Uzbekistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Higher Education, will arrange host institution affiliation. After this affiliation is confirmed both by the Foreign and Higher Education Ministries, the U.S. Embassy will be able to request a visa for a Fulbright scholar. The whole process takes from two to six months. Applicants may contact Elnora Muradova, Public Affairs Specialist, by telephone at (998 71) 120 5450; by fax at (998 71) 120 6335; or by e-mail at {MuradovaEN@state.gov}.

What kind of visa should I apply for?

Indicate that you'll be conducting research under a U.S. government grant. When applying for your visa, please request the visa duration to be for the entire length of your stay.

The Republic of Uzbekistan requires a project clearance for all Fulbright assignments. The detailed procedure for obtaining the visa and project clearance will be communicated to scholars upon selection. Grants cannot be issued for travel to Uzbekistan until proper visas and clearances are received. Clearance from the Republic of Uzbekistan is required for all Fulbright assignments.

What should I write down for my address in Uzbekistan?

Use the Embassy's address: 3 Moyqorghon Street, 5th Block, Yunusobod District, 100093 Tashkent. The inviting party is Greta Gromovich, Cultural Affairs Officer.

How much will my visa cost?

While we can't guarantee the visa cost, the Uzbek Embassy generally charges \$140 to issue a visa in the United States. If visa expediting is requested, an additional 50 percent will be charged.

How do I get a letter of invitation?

Every scholar must obtain a letter of invitation from his/her host institution in Uzbekistan. Recent developments prove this is useful when obtaining official clearance from the Uzbek government. When the Uzbek government considers a Fulbright grantee, he/she will be given a visa for the whole grant period; if it is only a three-month visa, the Embassy will request a visa extension and in this case, the scholar will be asked to travel either to Kazakhstan or Kyrgyzstan and enter Uzbekistan again. Details of this process will be thoroughly discussed with the Fulbright coordinator in the Embassy.

Please make sure your home address is available before registration.

You are required to register your visa within three business days upon arrival. No registration fee is required if you are traveling as a scholar through a government exchange. Housing arrangements can be made through realtors, local friends or with the help of the host institution. If it takes more than three days to find a house, the scholar should register with a hotel/B&B. These establishments have the right to register a foreigner for a period of her/his stay and you will not be in a hurry while looking for your apartment/house.

It is the scholar's responsibility to register his/her visa, but you will not do it in person. Each host institution's international department will produce all necessary documentation and a Fulbright has to provide four passport size photos. The international department representative will communicate with the Interior Ministry's office which registers every foreigner (OVIR) to get the process started. It might take from a couple of days up to a week for registration. Please do not plan to travel outside of Tashkent during this time. Domestic flights and long-distance trains within Uzbekistan require a valid visa and a passport.

I want to travel to neighboring countries from Uzbekistan. Can I get a visa in Tashkent?

All of Uzbekistan's neighbors maintain Embassies in Tashkent. However, we have generally found that obtaining visas for these countries is easier in the United States. If you are planning to live outside of Tashkent, you will have to come to the capital to apply for your visa, which can be time-consuming. The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy Tashkent is not responsible for visas to other countries.

How do I get to Uzbekistan?

Most travelers from the U.S. prefer to fly through Istanbul or Frankfurt. Other options available include an Uzbek Airways New York-Riga-Tashkent flight which has a fuel stopover in Riga but does not involve a plane change. Direct flights to Tashkent from London, Rome, Milan and Paris are also available. It is also possible to fly through Moscow but since it is required to have a Russian visa to enter the country, we do not recommend this option in the event that flights change and you must stay in country.

What should I do when I arrive?

Please contact Elnora Muradova, public affairs specialist, by telephone at (998 71) 120 5450; by fax at (998 71) 120 6335; or by e-mail at MuradovaEN@state.gov. At your orientation, you will meet the Cultural Affairs Officer to review Embassy policies, apply for your visa extension, receive a mandatory security briefing, and register with the consular section.

Housing

Can you provide any recommendations on where to find affordable short-term housing? Options may include individual apartments, apartments to share, dormitories, etc. Are there any particular publications (either Internet or hardcopy) that publish apartment listings?

An expatriate publishes the Tashkent Events Newsletter: <http://www.tashkent-events.info/newsletters/info.html>. It lists social and cultural events along with a classified section listing items wanted to buy/sell, including apartment rentals. To subscribe, click on the link at the bottom of the above website page.

Typically, apartments in the capital can be rented by the day, week, or month. Homestays can be arranged, but dormitories generally do not exist (or are not recommended).

Is housing readily available in the regions?

There is always housing available in the regions. Announcements for apartments can also be found in regional newspapers which are published once a week. Host Institutions will be happy to help out with housing in the regions.

Please list the names and contact information of any reliable landlords or realty agents who may be of help to international scholars.

Please note the following realtors speak Russian and not English:

Elena – 104-5350/113-8055

Natalya – 321-4398

Dilya – 310-3044

What is the approximate monthly rent for a one room/one bedroom apartment?

a) ***in the capital city?*** \$100 to \$400, depends on location

b) ***in the regions?*** \$100 to \$200, depends on location

Embassy-specific Policies

Can I keep a blog? What about Facebook?

Grantees are working under the guises of the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent, and should be aware that statements made in a public forum are often construed as representing the U.S. government. All blogs and other electronic statements should contain a disclaimer that the opinions included are not representative of the U.S. government or its policies. You are a cultural ambassador of the United States on an official U.S. government-funded exchange program.

What about travel?

Grantees fall under U.S. Embassy Tashkent Chief of Mission travel policy. If the Regional Security Officer deems a place within Uzbekistan as unsafe for official Americans, this restriction applies to grantees. All international travel requests must be sent to your IIE/Georgetown, depending on your program, as well as the Cultural Affairs Officer. The Cultural Affairs Officer must be notified in advance of any domestic travel, and will refer to the Regional Security Officer as needed. This is for security reasons, as well as to be able to locate you in case of a family emergency in the United States.

Communications

How available are public telephones where one can call internationally? Are calling cards sold locally and can they be used in-country?

Calling cards are not widely available and are not reliable. The quality of the phone lines in Uzbekistan is generally poor but improving. The best connections are through VoIP programs (such as Skype, Yahoo Messenger, etc.) at most internet cafes.

How available are cell phones? Do they have reliable service? Do they function outside of the capital city? What is their general cost?

Cell phone service is very reliable, cheap, and available in nearly all urban centers and towns in Uzbekistan. Signals are limited, however, if one is traveling in a remote, mountainous area of the country. This is changing, however, and most towns and cities have coverage by at least one of the providers, although service is absent when traveling through mountain passes and rural areas.

If you are planning on working in remote areas, check with different providers to determine if their phones have coverage in the specified town or region.

Compare information and rates among the three largest providers:

Ucell: <http://www.ucell.uz>

MTS: <http://www.mts.uz/en/>

Beeline: <http://www.beeline.uz>

How reliable is the local government's international mail service? Would scholars be better off to rely on international shippers, such as DHL and Federal Express? Which international shippers operate in your country?

Local mail is reliable, but slow. Packages shipped from the U.S. typically take anywhere from two to five weeks to arrive. Very few expatriates report never having received packages or documents.

DHL, UPS and FedEx operate in Uzbekistan. They can be reached by phone:

DHL (+998 71) 120 5525

UPS (+998 71) 120 3838

FedEx (+998 71) 120 0700

Although expensive, they are the preferred shippers for important or sensitive documents and materials. If possible, it is much cheaper to carry goods as excess baggage on a flight than through DHL, FedEx or UPS.

Use of Embassy Pouch by Fulbright Scholars

a. Fulbright Scholars are authorized to make a one-time shipment **only** of educational materials to the American embassy in the country of assignment. This shipment cannot exceed four copy-paper-size boxes, none of which may weigh more than 50 pounds. These materials cannot be sent back to the United States by pouch. Address these packages to:

**Cultural Affairs Officer
7110 Tashkent Place
Department of State
Washington, DC 20521-7090**

The *grantee's* name must appear in the return address.

b. Fulbright grantees may also use the pouch for personal first-class letter mail weighing up to 13 ounces. In the case of books and printed materials, a package can weigh up to two pounds to and from the United States. Please note that in order for something to count as letter mail, you may need to request that shippers use soft envelopes instead of boxes, even if the box weighs less than two pounds. Letters must be addressed as follows:

**Name of Grantee
7110 Tashkent Pl
Dulles, VA 20189**

Grantees will use this address as the return address on all mail from abroad. Grantees may pick up their mail at the Embassy mail room. U.S. stamps are not available on the local market in Uzbekistan. Grantees should bring stamps from the U.S.

c. Do not include any mention of the U.S. embassy, the Department, Fulbright, or any other official title references in addresses using the 20189 ZIP code. The 20189 ZIP can only be used for letter mail up to the 2-pound limit and cannot be used for mailing of the one-time shipment of educational materials.

Where is Tashkent's main post office located?

The Central Post Office is located at 4 Prospect Navoi.

How available are fax machines?

Fax machines are available everywhere, most commonly in a town's post office, internet cafes, and telephone calling centers. Most places are NOT capable of sending faxes internationally.

How available is the Internet and/or e-mail? Are there Internet cafes or public access sites in your city? What is generally the cost for using a computer at an Internet cafe? Is it possible to print at Internet cafés?

There are a number of internet cafes in Tashkent, some open 24 hours. Rates and speed vary, but one may find a high-speed DSL connection at an internet cafe for approximately 2,000 soums per hour (approximately \$1.5). Internet cafes also have printing capabilities, which usually cost 200 soums per page (15 cents).

Internet services like DSL or WiMax are available. Quality and reliability are not always the best, but are improving. One month service costs approximately 50,000 - 100,000 soums (approximately \$30-55, depends on plan and internet provider. Internet credit can be purchased at many small grocery shops throughout Tashkent; look for the PAYNET service billboards outside storefronts.

WiFi is available in some Tashkent cafes and major hotels such as Intercontinental and Grand Mir and supermarkets like MegaPlanet.

If you want access to internet anytime from your laptop, it's worth the investment to buy an internet dongle (\$60-80) and monthly plan from any of the cell phone providers. Beeline is one of the most reliable, EVO and MTS are expensive and less reliable.

For personal internet, 3G modems which plug into your computer's USB port are available from EVO, MTS and Beeline. It is fast and reliable enough to do video chat most of the time. You generally pay by megabyte of information.

TRANSPORTATION

What kinds of public transportation are available?

The public transportation system within Tashkent consists of buses, private minibuses (marshrutkas), trolleybuses, trams, taxis, and a metro system. City bus service is inexpensive, however, it is not recommended for use, particularly at rush hour, because of crowding and petty crime. The underground metro system, the only one in Central Asia, has three lines. The metro is inexpensive, clean and worth a visit at least once as many of the stations boast impressive interior design.

For the metro, purchase a blue plastic token from a ticket booth at the metro entrance (current cost is 500 soum, or 30 cents, per trip), and insert the token into a turnstile upon entering the metro platform area. For **buses, trolleybuses, and trams**, also priced at approximately 500 soum per trip, tickets are purchased on board from a ticket vendor. **Marshrutkas** (numbered minivans) run established routes, but make unpredictable stops: they provide the least comfortable transportation option in Tashkent as they are crowded and difficult to enter/exit. They are not safe as well meaning driving in high speed. Marshrutka fare is comparable to bus fare, and is handed forward to the driver and his assistant during the trip. Passengers must call for the minivan to stop when ready to exit. Metro lines are marked on

local maps; bus destinations are posted in the windshield. Tram and trolley routes are difficult to find on a map.

Accepting rides from “private” taxis late at night can be dangerous and is discouraged. Women should not accept a ride from a taxi carrying two men (e.g., driver and male passenger) and should avoid sitting in the front seat. There are several reliable taxi dispatching services in Tashkent.

How available is public transportation to the regions? Other major cities?

In Samarkand, Bukhara and other major cities public transportation is sporadic and no strict schedule is observed. The local population relies mostly on marshrutkas and private taxis.

Where are the major airports located? Are there separate airports for domestic and international travel?

There are operating airports in most urban centers in Uzbekistan, although most international flights originate and terminate in Tashkent. Uzbek Air, the state-owned carrier, operates several flights to Moscow and other CIS capitals. Tashkent is connected with China, Japan, India, Thailand, Malaysia as well as European capitals. Time tables change twice a year, March and October, and it is worth checking with Uzbekistan Airways every time before planning your trips. There is an international and domestic airport in Tashkent.

Uzbekistan’s fleet of planes is equipped both with western planes like Boeing, Airbus Industrie, RJ and old Soviet Ilyushins and Antonovs, both prop and jet. Domestic flights are less reliable in winter due to the bad weather. Schedules are not user friendly and you might wish to travel by train to destinations like Samarkand and Bukhara, but might consider going by plane on longer distance trips to Nukus and Urgench. Also, be aware that economy-class tickets on Uzbek Air only allow 20 kg of checked baggage, and each kilogram of overweight baggage costs 1 percent of the ticket price. This can add up for expensive international flights.

Money

Is it easy to exchange money? Are dollars accepted anywhere?

There are many exchange points in Tashkent, and their rates are more or less competitive and always posted. Dollars and Euro can be exchanged almost universally. Only soums should be used to pay for goods and services. We recommend you bring crisp dollars and personal checks.

Is it worthwhile for international visitors to bring credit cards? If yes, which credit cards are accepted?

Credit cards are not widely accepted in Uzbekistan except for in major hotels, and the country largely runs on a cash economy.

Are ATM machines in use throughout the country?

ATM machines are available at major hotels such as the Intercontinental.

Can traveler's checks be used?

Travelers checks are accepted at the U.S. Embassy cashier's office.

Can U.S. personal checks be cashed anywhere?

Uzbekistani banks do not cash foreign checks, and checks drawn from an American bank account cannot be cashed at the American Embassy. You will be allowed to cash personal checks at the embassy, but this should be confirmed in advance with the Cultural Affairs Officer or Public Affairs Specialist. This is subject to change based on regulations.

The Embassy Cashier is open for business M, T, Th and Fr from 10.00am–12:30pm and 2-4pm on Fridays. You are authorized two visits per month and the transaction limit for each visit is \$500. Exceptions must be approved by the Management Officer.

Safety

Embassy hours of operation:

M-F, 9:00 am to 6:00; Switchboard is manned after working hours by the local guard force for emergency calls. If you have a problem and are not sure to which section you should call, you can call one of the Embassy's operators at **(998) (71) 120-5450** and explain your problem and they will transfer your call to the correct person.

Do you have any safety advice for international visitors? Particularly women scholars or homosexuals? People of color?

Carry your passport or a photocopy of your passport to include the photo page and valid Uzbekistan visa (if you have one) at all times. If authorities question or detain you, show them your documents immediately and identify yourself. Do not withhold your identity.

Be careful when walking on the streets. Even though pedestrians have the right of way at intersections, vehicles may not yield. Also when approaching rail tracks be aware of trains or trolley cars.

Uzbekistan is a fairly quiet place. Uzbeks pride themselves on their hospitality although one must keep in mind local cultural practices. Modesty and respect are key mantras for foreign visitors to consider when working and traveling in Uzbekistan. In general, foreigners should use the same "street smarts" that they would in a large city in the United States. For women, it is not advisable to walk alone after dark. Try to take care of business before the sun goes down. Ask someone to escort you home.

People of color may face increased staring, but they do not face any additional security risks. The same "street smarts" apply.

Homosexuality is socially unacceptable in Uzbekistan. However, it typically isn't something that crosses Uzbek radar screens. Nonetheless, homosexual scholars should plan to remain cautious and closeted during their time in country.

Have there been any crimes against Westerners in the country that scholars should be aware of?

There have been no explicit attacks against foreigners, although as everywhere, scholars should be aware of petty crimes such as pick-pocketing and use the same "street smarts" as they would in any other large city.

Are there numbers one could call in case of an emergency? (fire, police, ambulance, etc.)

- 01—Fire
- 02—Police
- 03—Ambulance
- 04—Gas Leak
- (+99871) 120-5450—U.S. Embassy Post One/Marines (ask to speak to the Duty Officer)

Health

Are there any American or Western doctors working in your home country at this time? If yes, please provide their names and contact information. If not, do you know of any particular doctor or health care organization frequently visited by foreigners?

Tashkent International Medical Clinic (TIMC) is staffed by expat and local physicians. The staff speaks English and they offer basic lab and specialist services. Local medical facilities, which are based on Soviet medicine, are below U.S. standards. The National Emergency Hospital has new equipment, but has only basic nursing care.

There are several dental clinics, including TIMC, which offer basic dental services.

Tashkent International Medical Clinic (TIMC)

- Phone: (998-71) 291-0142; 291-0726; Fax: (998-71) 291-2246

Where are the local pharmacies? How available are most prescription drugs?

Pharmacies are available throughout the city, although the quality and availability of medicines vary.

Drugs should not be purchased on the local market as many are counterfeit. Scholars should bring a full supply of prescription drugs to cover time spent in Uzbekistan, eyeglasses, and any other over-the-counter medications that you may use.

Are there any particular drugs or medications that are not available in your country that scholars should know to bring from home?

Generally, expatriates prefer to bring with them any medicines that they typically use, as these are known and predictable entities.

Are there any particular toiletries that are not available in your country (e.g. contact lens solution)?

Western-quality contact lenses or contact solution could be found in Tashkent but will be much costlier than obtained in the United States. Scholars may also want to bring with themselves a supply of anti-diarrheal medication or other medicines for gastrointestinal illnesses. Women's supplies are widely available, although if you have a preference for a particular brand, it is advisable to bring these with you.

Are there currently any health crises that foreign travelers should be aware of?

Tap water and ice are unsafe throughout Uzbekistan. All water should be filtered and treated. You should not use tap water to brush your teeth or rinse your toothbrush. Use bottled or distilled water instead. Safe bottled water is plentiful. Always ensure plates, glasses, and flatware in restaurants are dry.

Wash all fruits and vegetables, even if you plan to peel them. Any that are not peeled should be soaked in a chlorine solution (three drops Clorox per liter) for 15 minutes. Another alternative is washing in water with a few grains of Potassium Permanganate (can be obtained locally), then rinsing in distilled water and drying.

Meat may be purchased safely at large supermarkets. Meat purchased in the bazaars has been exposed to dust and flies and is subject to contamination. All meat should be served well done. Eggs should be washed thoroughly before use. Sausage and deli meats found in the market have not been cooked; they should be cooked thoroughly before consumption. Fish is plentiful during whole year but local superstition does not allow fish from June to September. You can find whole frozen fish in a number of shops and bazaars and it is imported from Russia. Dairy products in stores should be safe, having been pasteurized, but check expiration dates. Those in the market normally have not been pasteurized. Fresh milk should be avoided as should any soft cheeses from the market. Long-shelf life milk is readily available. Yogurt is readily available.

Customs and Culture

***Are there any particular customs that foreigners should be aware of when arriving in your country?
What is the custom on gift giving?***

Although Tashkent is relatively cosmopolitan, most of the rest of Uzbekistan reflects a more conservative, Muslim-oriented culture. Men now wear shorts outside of their own house or when not playing sports. For women, there are dress codes, one for most parts of Tashkent and the major tourist centers, and one for everywhere else. In Tashkent and tourist centers, it is acceptable to wear very short skirts, tops with bared shoulders, and pants, except the Old City. Outside Tashkent, dress is much more conservative. Traditional Uzbeks wear long dresses, long sleeves and a loosely tied headscarf. However, women are not required to cover their heads, as is the case in more conservative Muslim countries. Shoes are not worn inside Uzbek homes and are removed at the entrance.

There is no question that Uzbekistan is a male-dominated society. Much of the local social life revolves around the "chaikhana" (teahouses). Although foreign women are allowed in, the chaikhana basically serve as men's clubs, where only men congregate and talk; local women do not frequent

these establishments. When there are large social gatherings of mixed company, the women and men usually sit in separate groups (again, exceptions are made for “honored foreign guests”). Mosques are segregated during regular prayers, and head coverings for women may be required. Women should take the lead in greetings and in offering to shake hands; Uzbek women normally do not shake hands, and well-behaved men do not take the lead in greeting unknown women.

Uzbeks are a very friendly people, especially when foreigners take the trouble to learn a few introductory greetings in Uzbek. Most people will be happy to help with directions, and Uzbeks often invite people to their homes. On such occasions, small gifts, especially for children, would be appreciated but not expected; your hosts are more likely to offer you small gifts/souvenirs. Should you bring flowers to your hosts, be sure the bouquet is composed of an odd number of flowers; even numbers of flowers are associated with funerals.

Additionally, what is the culture around networking? Can scholars simply contact other scholars, or do they need to send out letters of invitation announcing their desire to meet other scholars?

The most practical way of meeting another scholar is by writing a letter or calling on the phone, as it will give the other individual time to prepare. If scholars know one other or they have heard about each other, they can meet without any notification.

Scholars may want to talk to the Embassy staff about potential contacts. Alumni of U.S. government-sponsored educational programs can be found in high levels of government, businesses, the non-profit sector, and academia, and frequently prove to be a valuable resource for additional contacts.

Shopping

Embassy CLO Services:

The Fulbright coordinator can arrange access for you to the CLO office and escort you during your visit. The CLO office has advice on where to go shopping, lists of restaurants, lists of places to visit, recreational, and sport opportunities as well as just getting a good book or video.

How available are PC or Macintosh computer supplies?

PC computer supplies including Macintosh are widely available, although much more expensive than in the U.S. or Europe. Most laptop adapters are made to handle from 120-250V, and since electricity in Uzbekistan is 220V, there are generally no problems. One needs only to purchase an adapter, widely available for a few dollars. A surge protector—also widely available—is recommended as power surges are common.

Can I buy items at the Embassy's commissary?

Yes, but you are limited to two visits per month. This is subject to change based on embassy regulations. It should be confirmed with the Cultural Affairs Officer.

LASTLY, do you have any other advice for first-time visitors to your country?

In late autumn and winter, electricity and heating are problematic everywhere in the country. There are no operating centralized heating systems outside of capital and other major cities in the country. Many of the regions experience rolling power outages. Electricity is almost always constant in the center of Tashkent, but regions of the city do experience frequent power outages at times of peak demand. Overall, the severity of the power outages and the strictness of the rolling power outage system depends on the demand (usually directly correlated with the temperature or amount of snow). It is recommended to consider bringing a sleeping bag.

Education

Fulbright scholars and other grantees with university affiliations require special permission from the Ministry of Education. Usually, this process takes about two months and more.

It is exceptionally difficult to pursue higher education in Uzbekistan. Corruption in educational institutions is an acceptable practice. Degrees are routinely awarded based on ability to pay and not on intellectual achievement or academic merit. Grantees working in schools or universities should be aware that infrastructure will not meet western standards. Heat is often a problem in the winter in schools, and there is a dearth of textbooks and other resources in local schools.

As elsewhere in the former Soviet Union, education is a high priority in Uzbekistan. With independence, the language of instruction has shifted from Russian to Uzbek, and a number of non-Uzbek educators and scholars have emigrated. Some students and educators complain that the quality of education and the integrity of academic administration have declined. All education is under the Ministry of Higher Education or the Ministry of Public Education. No private schools are accredited, although a few private academies exist, especially to teach business subjects. Tashkent has an extensive system of specialized high schools for students gifted in the sciences, the arts, and languages.

Tashkent has five major universities: Tashkent State Islamic University, University of World Economy and Diplomacy (the elite school for government service), Tashkent State Economics University, National University of Uzbekistan, and the University of World Languages. There are also institutes and think tanks in Tashkent, including the prestigious Oriental Studies Institute. The National University of Uzbekistan was decentralized after student riots in 1992, upgrading provincial training centers to the status of state universities. Westminster University in Tashkent, a business school affiliated with Westminster University in London, is popular and well regarded.

Transportation: Arrival and Departure

A U.S. Embassy expeditor will meet Fulbright scholars at the airport upon arrival with an Embassy vehicle to transport to place of stay. The expeditor will also transport the scholar to the airport for departure from Uzbekistan.

What to Bring

Uzbekistan has an extreme continental climate: dry and very hot in summer and cool and wet in winter. In the long summer, daytime temperatures often reach or surpass 40°C (104°F), but humidity is low. During the short winter, daytime temperatures usually stay above freezing, but can dip well below, and snow is not unusual. Spring and fall are the most comfortable seasons. In all seasons, because of the extremely dry, desert climate, the differences between daytime and nighttime temperatures are much greater than in most parts of the U.S. Bring warm clothing as winters and evenings can be quite cold.

As mentioned above, it is important to bring crisp dollar bills and any prescription medications and/or eyeglasses.

Embassy Speaker Program

The Embassy welcomes visiting scholars and students to speak to our local audiences at weekly Chai Chats and other speaking events. There is a regional SCA Travel program which is maintained from Delhi, India.

Access Microscholarship Programs in Uzbekistan

The Access Microscholarship Program began in 2004 in Tashkent. There are branches in Bukhara, Ferghana, Angren, Urgench, Asaka and Namangan. As of January 2012, the program has 367 graduates. The two-year Access program provides 644 hours of English language instruction, including six 72-hour trimesters, two 70-hour Intensive Sessions, and 72 hours of conversation/movie clubs/IT sessions.

Across all branches, students engage in a variety of activities. These include but are not limited to: field trips to local orphanages, Embassy events in Tashkent (American Movie Festival), events with sports and culture envoys; holiday celebrations in English. Intensive After School Instruction includes six hours of English instruction per week, in addition to extracurricular activities.

Suggested Reading

- Akbarzadeh, Shahram. Uzbekistan and the United States: authoritarianism, Islamism and Washington's security agenda (London; New York: Zed Books, 2005).
- Allworth, Edward. The modern Uzbeks: from the fourteenth century to the present: a cultural history (Stanford, Calif.: Hoover Institution Press, Stanford University, 1990). [DK948.62 .A45]
- Bakhtiyar A. Nazarov and Denis Sinor, eds., with Devin DeWeese. Essays on Uzbek history, culture, and language (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University, Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies, 1993). [PL56.E86]

- Blackmon, Pamela. In the shadow of Russia: reform in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, c2011).
- Bohr, Annette. Uzbekistan: politics and foreign policy (London: Royal Institute of Internal Affairs, Russia and Eurasia Programme; Washington DC: Distributed by the Brookings Institution, 1998).
- Carrère d'Encausse, Hélène. Islam and the Russian Empire: reform and revolution in Central Asia (London; New York: I.B. Tauris; New York: Distributed by in the USA by Palgrave Macmillan, 2009).
- Critchlow, James. Nationalism in Uzbekistan: a Soviet republic's road to sovereignty (Boulder: Westview Press, 1991).
- Hiro, Dilip. Inside central Asia: a political and cultural history of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Iran (New York: Overlook Duckworth, 2009)
- Melvin, Neil. Uzbekistan: transition to authoritarianism on the Silk Road (Amsterdam: Harwood Academic Publishers, c2000). [DK948.865.M45 2000]
- Rand, Robert. Tamerlane's children : dispatches from contemporary Uzbekistan (Oxford: Oneworld, 2006)
- Rasanayagam, Johan. Islam in post-Soviet Uzbekistan: the morality of experience (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011).
- Yalcin, Resul. The rebirth of Uzbekistan: politics, economy and society in the post-Soviet era (Reading, UK: Ithaca Press, c2002).

Useful Websites

- <http://www.tashkent-events.info/newsletters/info.html> (in English)
- <http://www.afisha.uz> – cultural events, exhibits, concerts, restaurant listings (in Russian)
- <http://www.restoran.uz> - information on many restaurants in Tashkent